

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-16, 18, 30-37, 39, 40, 42-44, 46-48, 50 and 51 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding **claims 1-9, 40, 42 and 43**, independent claim 1 discloses a method of recording data to a computer readable storage medium comprising: identifying time-series information as a read/write unit serving as a unit, in which data is written onto said storage medium and read out from said storage medium, including a plurality of decoding/reproduction units; carrying out data compression on the time-series information including, generating management information in respective decoding/reproduction units of said time-series information and generating additional information for one or more decoding/reproduction units of said time-series information, said management information for use in a decoding/reproduction process for decoding and reproducing said time-series information, said additional information including a predetermined condition when said time-series information is retrieved; and recording said time-series information once compressed, said management information, and said additional information onto the computer readable storage recording medium wherein said additional information and said management information is recorded as decoding/reproduction units within a read/write unit of said storage medium, wherein said additional information being is recorded logically just after said management information, which is neither taught nor an obvious variation of the relevant prior art.

Regarding **claims 10-16, 18, 44, 46 and 47**, independent claim 10 discloses a recording apparatus having a recording medium comprising: a data input device for receiving time-series information as a read/write unit serving as a unit, in which data is written onto said recording medium and read out from said recording medium, including a plurality of decoding/reproduction units; a data compression device for carrying out data compression on the time-series information; a management-information generation device for generating management information in respective decoding/reproduction units of said time-series information for use in a decoding/reproduction process for decoding and reproducing said time-series information; an additional-information generation device for generating additional information for one or more decoding/reproduction units of said time-series information that includes a predetermined condition when said time-series information is retrieved; and a recording control device for recording said time-series information once compressed on said recording medium wherein said additional information and said management information is recorded as decoding/reproduction units within a read/write unit of said recording medium, and recording said management information generated by said management-information generation device and said additional information by said additional-information generation device on said recording medium wherein said additional information is recorded logically just after said management information, which is neither taught nor an obvious variation of the relevant prior art.

Regarding **claim 30**, the relevant prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest a reproduction apparatus for a recording medium having recorded thereon, compressed

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time-series information as a read/write unit serving as a unit, in which data is written onto said recording medium and read out from said recording medium, including a plurality of decoding/reproduction units, management information for a decoding/reproduction process to data included in each of said decoding/reproduction units of said time-series information, and additional information for one or more decoding/reproduction units of said time-series information that includes a predetermined condition when said time series information is retrieved, wherein said additional information and said management information is recorded as decoding/reproduction units within a read/write unit of said recording medium, and said additional information is recorded logically just after said management information said apparatus comprising: a read device for reading out said compressed time-series information and said additional information from said recording medium; a separation device for separating said compressed time-series information and said additional information, which have been read out by said read device; a decompression device for decompressing said compressed time-series information separated by said separation device; a first reproduction/output device for reproducing and outputting said decompressed time-series information by using management information for said decoding/reproduction process; and a second reproduction/output device for reproducing and outputting said additional information output by said separation device synchronously with an operation to reproduce and output data of said decoding/reproduction unit of said time-series information by using management information for said decoding/reproduction process.

Regarding **claim 31**, the relevant prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest a reproduction apparatus for a recording medium having recorded thereon, compressed time-series information as a read/write unit serving as a unit, in which data is written onto said recording medium and read out from said recording medium, including a plurality of decoding/reproduction units, management information for a decoding/reproduction process to data included in each of said decoding/reproduction units of said time-series information, and additional information for one or more decoding/reproduction units of said time-series information that includes a predetermined condition when said time series information is retrieved, wherein said additional information and said management information is recorded as decoding/reproduction units within a read/write unit of said recording medium, and said additional information is recorded logically just after said management information said apparatus comprising: a read device for reading out said compressed time-series information and said additional information from said recording medium; a separation device for separating said compressed time-series information and said additional information, which have been read out by said read device; a decompression device for decompressing said compressed time-series information separated by said separation device; a reproduction/output device for reproducing and outputting said decompressed time-series information by using management information for said decoding/reproduction process; and a reproduction/control device for reproducing said additional information output by said separation device in synchronization with an operation to reproduce and output data of said decoding/reproduction unit of said time-

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series information by using management information for said decoding/reproduction process, and controlling data of a corresponding one of said decoding/reproduction units on the basis of said generated additional information.

Regarding **claims 32-37, 39, 48, 50 and 51**, independent claim 32 discloses, an image pickup apparatus comprising: an image pickup device; a data compression device for carrying out a data compression process on image data output by said image pickup device; a time-series information identifying device for identifying time-series information as a read/write unit serving as a unit, in which data is written onto a recording medium and read out from said recording medium, including a plurality of decoding/reproduction units; a time-management information generation device for generating time-management information in respective decoding/reproduction units of said time-series information and additional information for one or more decoding/reproduction units of said time-series information, said time-management information for use in a decoding/reproduction process for said image data, said additional information including a predetermined condition when said image data is retrieved; and a recording control device for recording said image data once compressed on a recording medium wherein said additional information and said management information is recorded as decoding/reproduction units within a read/write unit of said recording medium, and recording said additional information generated by said additional-information generation device on said recording medium logically just after said management information, which is neither taught nor an obvious variation of the relevant prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Imahashi et al. (US Patent No. 6,438,317), Lyons et al. (US Patent No. 5,574,505), Crinon (US Patent No. 6,801,575) and Isobe et al. (US Application Publication No. 2002/0018644) disclose, *inter alia*, a stream encoder which encodes ancillary data.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WANDA M. NEGRON whose telephone number is (571)270-1129. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9:30 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on (571) 272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Wanda M. Negrón/

Examiner, Art Unit 2622

October 13, 2009

/TUAN HO/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2622